

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A programmable temperature control apparatus for controlling the operation of at least one temperature-modifying device having a power connector, said apparatus comprising:
 - at least one power coupler for removeably engaging said power connector from said temperature-modifying device; and
 - a programmable controller electrically coupled to said at least one power coupler and programmed to control the operation of said at least one temperature modifying device in response to the comparison of a measured ambient temperature with at least one set point temperature.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - at least one removeably engageable power coupler for electrically connecting said programmable controller to a power supply.
3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said power supply comprises an electrical outlet.
4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said at least one power coupler comprises an electrical outlet.
5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said temperature-modifying device comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of an air conditioner and a space heater.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, comprising a plurality of said power couplers, wherein said programmable controller is programmed to individually control each of said power couplers for either a heating device or a cooling device.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said programmable controller is programmed to activate said heating device if said temperature falls below a set point temperature and to operate said cooling device if said temperature rises above said set point temperature or another set point temperature.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said programmable controller comprises a programming device for implementing a temperature control program, a memory for storing said temperature control program and temperature related information, a temperature comparator for comparing said ambient temperature with said set point temperature.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising at least one remote temperature sensor, in communication with said programmable controller, for sensing said ambient temperature.

10. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said programmable device comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a logic circuit on a logic board, a microprocessor, and an integrated circuit.

11. A programmable temperature control apparatus for controlling the operation of at least one temperature-modifying device having a power connector, said apparatus comprising:

at least one outlet for removeably engaging said power connector from said temperature-modifying device; and

a programmable controller electrically coupled to said at least one electrical outlet and programmed to control the operation of said at least one temperature modifying device in response to the comparison of a measured ambient temperature with at least one set point temperature.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11, further comprising:

at least one removeably engageable power coupler for electrically connecting said programmable controller to an electrical outlet.

13. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein said temperature-modifying device comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of an air conditioner and a space heater.

14. The apparatus of Claim 11, comprising a plurality of said outlets, wherein said programmable controller is programmed to individually control each of said outlets for either a heating device or a cooling device.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said programmable controller is programmed to activate said heating device if said temperature falls below a set point temperature and to operate said cooling device if said temperature rises above said set point temperature or another set point temperature.

16. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein said programmable controller comprises a programming device for implementing a temperature control program, a memory for storing said temperature control program and temperature related information, a temperature comparator for comparing said ambient temperature with said set point temperature.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said programmable device comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a logic circuit on a logic board, a microprocessor, and an integrated circuit.

18. A programmable temperature control apparatus for controlling the operation of at least one temperature-modifying device having a power connector, said apparatus comprising:

at least one outlet for removeably engaging said power connector from said temperature-modifying device;

a programmable controller electrically coupled to said at least one electrical outlet and programmed to control the operation of said at least one temperature modifying device in response to the comparison of a measured ambient temperature with at least one set point temperature; and

at least one removeably engageable power coupler for electrically connecting said programmable controller to an electrical outlet.

19. The apparatus of Claim 18, comprising a plurality of said outlets, wherein said programmable controller is programmed to activate a heating device if said temperature falls

below a set point temperature and to operate a cooling device if said temperature rises above said set point temperature or another set point temperature.

20. A method for the programmed control of at least one temperature-modifying device having a power connector, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a programmable controller having at least one power coupler for removably engaging said power connector from said temperature-modifying device; and

configuring said programmable controller to be user programmable to control the operation of said at least one temperature modifying device in response to the comparison of a measured ambient temperature with at least one set point temperature.